

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1-5 with the following:

1. (Original) An apparatus for reproducing data by scanning slant tracks formed on a tape-shaped recording medium using a plurality of reproducing heads disposed on a rotary drum, said apparatus comprising:

measuring means for measuring error rates by reading said data from said tracks formed on said tape-shaped recording medium by said reproducing heads disposed on said rotary drum;

track detecting means for detecting a worst track deemed to have a highest error rate from said tracks respectively formed at predetermined cycles on said tape-shaped recording medium, based on said error rates measured by said measuring means;

head determining means for determining a pair of reproducing heads out of said plurality of reproducing heads, said pair of reproducing heads are able to read data recorded on said worst track at lowest error rates based on said error rates measured by said measuring means; and

servo control means for performing tracking servo control such that said worst track is scanned by said pair of reproducing heads determined by said head determining means.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) A method of reproducing data by scanning slant tracks formed on a tape-shaped recording medium using a plurality of reproducing heads disposed on a rotary drum, said method comprising the steps of:

measuring error rates by reading said data from said tracks formed on said tape-shaped recording medium by said reproducing heads disposed on said rotary drum;

detecting a worst track deemed to have a highest error rate from said tracks respectively formed at predetermined cycles on said tape-shaped recording medium, based on said error rates measured by said measuring step;

determining a pair of reproducing heads out of said plurality of reproducing heads, said pair of reproducing heads are able to read data recorded on said worst track at lowest error rates, based on said error rates measured by said measuring step; and

performing tracking servo control such that said worst track is scanned by said pair of reproducing heads determined by said determining step.